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BOROUGH of CHARD

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year ending 31st December, 1941

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:
D. V. HAGUE,
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:
P. H. WEBB,
M.Inst., M. & Cy.E.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:
A. L. LARCOMBE.
(Absent on Military Service.)

Young & Son, Printers, Chard

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Chard.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for 1941.

There is still considerable overcrowding in the Town. The increased population and the restriction on new building makes this inevitable, but efforts are being made to re-condition any houses that can be made fit for human habitation.

Apart from Measles the incidence of infectious disease was not above the average. A campaign to protect children from Diphtheria was conducted during the year. 72% of the school children were immunised and 36% of the children under school age.

There has been a decrease in the incidence of Scabies and Verminous conditions, but fresh cases still occur and the opening of a cleansing station is under consideration.

Under the Rest and Shelter Scheme arrangements have been made for emergency medical rooms, should this become necessary. Some equipment is to be provided from County sources.

Ambulance services are still inadequate having regard to War risks.

Yours faithfully,

D. V. HAGUE.

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SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	920 acres
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941) according to Rate Books	1,430
Rateable Value	£26,592
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£104

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate ...	69	31	38
Illegitimate	3	2	1
Still Births—Legitimate ...	3	2	1
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Deaths	59	30	29
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			10.27
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births)			39.47
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population			11.02

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil.	Nil.
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	Nil.	Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births ...	41.66
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	43.48
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	4
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.

Causes of Death.

	M.	F.
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—
Cancer	3	1
Heart Disease	9	8
Other Circulatory Disease ...	—	1
Bronchitis	3	3
Pneumonia	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach	1	—
Intra-Cranial Vasc :Lesions ...	3	2
Appendicitis	1	—
Premature Birth	1	—
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, Infant Dis.	1	1
Diabetes	—	4
All other causes	7	8
Total ...	30	29

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. The Assistant Sanitary Inspector has joined the Forces, thus leaving the whole work of the Sanitary Department with Mr. Webb. Slaughter House Meat Inspection work continues to be heavy.

2 (a) Laboratory Facilities—No Change.
(b) Ambulance Facilities—No Change.
(c) Clinic and Treatment Centres. A Hostel for the treatment of difficult evacuated children was opened at Ivydale, Furnham Road, Chard, on the 6th August, 1941. Fifteen children were admitted during the year.
(d) Nursing in the Home—No Change.
(e) Hospitals — No Change.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. **Water Supply.**
Chlorinating plants are now installed for both water supplies.

2. **Drainage and Sewerage.** No change.
Rivers and Streams. No action taken.

3. **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

Drainage Tests and Inspections—	
Tests	51
Inspections	37
Houses Disinfected	28
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspections ...	19
Water Samples taken	6

4. **Schools.** No change.

SECTION D.

Housing Inspections.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts)...	18
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	29
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under H.Con.Reg. 1925 and 1932	Nil.
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil.
(c) Number of houses in which no action was found necessary ...	Nil.
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil.
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	Nil.

Housing Action.

(a) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their Officers	Nil.
(b) Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action	Nil.

Action under Statutory Powers during the year

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:	
(a) By Owners	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	14
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after serving of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	14
(b) By Local Authority	Nil.

Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.

Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit	Nil.

Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.

The exact number of houses overcrowded is not known but there is considerable overcrowding.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply:

Number of Producers on the Register ...	8
Number of Distributors on the Register: divided as follows—	
(1) Distributors only	6
(2) Distributors who are also Producers	2

Meat and Other Foods:

Number of Slaughterhouses Licensed ... 1
Government Slaughter House.
638 visits have been made to the Government Slaughter House for the purpose or Meat inspection.
Regular visits have been made to shops.
Vehicles have been inspected.
There are no Stalls.

Adulteration: Local action taken ... Nil.

SECTION F.

A considerable Measles epidemic occurred in the spring. 79 cases were notified and it is almost certain other cases occurred which were not notified. There were no deaths.

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified, ten being admitted to the Isolation Hospital, South Petherton.

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Dths.
Scarlet Fever ...	4	2	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	1	—
Pneumonia ...	10	—	—
Measles ...	79	1	—
Whooping Cough ...	24	1	—
Tubercular Meningitis	1	1	1
Tonsilitis ...	—	1	—
Laryngitis ...	—	1	—

Analysis of the Total cases Notified.

	Under 1 year.	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	Over 65 years
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	5	1
Measles	2	4	7	7	8	40	6	3	2	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	2	1	3	3	1	10	1	1	1	0	1	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0

Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality.

Age periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1								
1—5								
5—15			1					
15—25								
25—35	1	1						
35—45	1	1			1			
45—55								
55—65	1							
65 and upwards								
Total ...	3	2	1		1			